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Food PREVIEW

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A summary of the food outlook especially
designed to give maximum advance information
to food editors to help them plan food features.

U.S. Department of Agriculture
Agricultural Marketing Service

April 18, 1961
F P - 47

MEAT.....Total meat production for the year will probably reach a new high--however, due to population growth, supplies per person may dip slightly from the 161.7 pounds consumed last year.

Beef.....Indications point to only a modest production gain over 1960, with output at times close to year-earlier levels. Again, a high proportion of the output will be in fed beef.

Pork.....Over the next few months hog marketings are expected to run seasonally lower than a year ago. Ten Corn Belt States on March 1 reported 3 percent fewer hogs and pigs on hand 6 months old and older. This included about 8 percent more sows.

Lamb.....Slaughter of sheep and lambs over the next few months will probably be close to--or a little below--a year earlier, but slaughter this summer may run about the same as last summer's relatively high rate.

POULTRY.....Poultrymen are stepping up production this year. Marketings of broiler-fryers and turkeys are running ahead of 1960 levels, and such trends as hatchings indicate that output of poultry meat will continue above last year's records throughout 1961.

Eggs.....Until around mid-year production will probably be close to 1960 levels, due to the smaller laying flock. After mid-year, though, egg production is likely to considerably surpass the 1960 rate because of the increase so far in hatchings of replacement chicks and therefore in subsequent layer numbers.

DAIRY.....Milk production in March registered a 2 percent increase over the year before and is expected to exceed year-earlier levels by about that amount as 1961 unfolds. This means that milk flow this year may approximate the record output of 124.9 billion pounds established in 1956, and will register a greater gain than the 122.9 billion pounds of the year before.

VEGETABLES:

Fresh.....April 1 estimates for about three-fourths of the spring vegetable production--not including melons--point to considerably smaller crops this year than last, of early spring lettuce, sweet corn, onions, asparagus, snap beans and tomatoes, and for early spring broccoli, and cauliflower, moderately smaller. Spring crops of carrots and green peppers are also down. But significant increases are expected in spring crops of celery and spinach, and in early spring cabbage and cucumbers. For many crops smaller planted acreages are the main cause of the declines in production.

As for the early spring potato crop, indications are for a 19 percent increase over last year, and 17 percent above average. Late spring potato producers planted 2 percent less acreage than last year, and 15 percent below average. However, California, which produces over half the late spring crop, has planted a 9 percent larger acreage

than last year. The crop is in excellent condition and heavy supplies are expected. March 1 estimates of potato stocks on hand totaled 61-1/2 million hundredweight--8 percent above that time last year, and, except for March 1, 1959, the largest supply in 10 years.

Processed.....Prospective planted acreage of seven leading vegetable crops for commercial processing this year totals 9 percent above a year ago but 2 percent below average. All these crops except spinach show acreage increases. Those crops with larger acreages than last year are lima beans, up 12 percent; snap beans, 7 percent; cabbage for kraut (contract only), 6 percent; sweet corn, 9 percent; green peas, 13 percent; and tomatoes, 7 percent. Spinach acreage is down 4 percent. Weather, or changes in processors' plans could, of course, vary these figures.

The quantity of frozen vegetables, including potatoes, in cold storage warehouse on April 1 stood at 797 million pounds--about a third more than average for the month and 30 percent above a year earlier. In fact, each month's holdings so far this year have set a new record for the month.

FRUITS.....The latest roundup of total citrus production for the 1960-61 season shows it was 4 percent smaller than a year earlier, but close to average. By April 1 slightly over half the orange crop had been harvested and about two-thirds of the grapefruit. From April 1 to the season's end there will be about the same quantity of oranges available, but more grapefruit than were still unharvested a year ago. Processing of frozen orange concentrate to April 1 ran a fifth greater than a year earlier. On April 1 frozen orange concentrate cold storage holdings totaled 34 million gallons, which figure was 3 million gallons larger than a year earlier and 4 million above average.

Stocks of fresh apples in cold storage were 9 million, 221 thousand bushels, or 221 thousand bushels below a year earlier.

Due mostly to increased yields per acre, the early spring strawberry crop is expected to run a fourth greater than last year. Most of the gain is in Louisiana, largest producing State for early spring berries.

On April 1 cold storage holdings of frozen fruits totaled 346 million pounds, 8 percent greater than a year earlier and 3 percent above average.

The Plentiful Foods Program

The Agricultural Marketing Service of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, through its Plentiful Foods Program, is cooperating in the following food campaigns:

Cereal and Milk Spring Festival.....	Through April 30
Butter with Corn on the Cob Time.....	May 1 through August 31
National Raisin Week.....	May 7 - 13
National Frozen Food Week.....	May 13 - 20
National Pickle Week.....	May 18 - 27
June Dairy Month.....	June 1 - 30
National Mayonnaise and Salad Dressing Week.....	June 15 - 24